

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-10, and 12-18 are pending in the application, with Claims 2 and 11 cancelled and Claims 1, 3-10, and 13-18 amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-5, 8-14, 17, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Chestnut (U.S. Patent No. 6,041,114); and Claims 6, 7, 15, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chestnut.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the personal interview between the Examiner, the Examiner's supervisor, and Applicants' representative on December 22, 2003. During the interview, the Examiners agreed that Chestnut does not teach or suggest a method or a device for callers to select a call forwarding destination and a communications mode comprising 'one of an email mode, a fax mode, and a chat mode' as recited in amended Claims 1 and 10. The Examiners also agreed that Chestnut does not teach or suggest 'voice-to-text conversion and text-to-voice conversion' as recited in amended Claims 4 and 13. The Examiners indicated that it may have been obvious at the time of invention to modify Chestnut to allow for call-forwarding to a TV phone. Applicants traverse this suggestion. However, to expedite the handling of this application, Applicants have removed any reference to TV phone from the claims.

Independent Claims 1 and 10 are amended to include the features of cancelled Claims 2 and 11, respectively. Claims 1 and 10 are further amended to recite that the
new | communications mode is one of an email mode, a fax mode, and a chat mode. Support for

this amendment is found in Applicants' originally filed specification.¹ Independent Claims 4 and 13 are amended to recite that the communications modes include voice-to-text conversion and text-to-voice conversion. Support for this amendment is found in Applicants' originally filed specification.² Claims 1, 3-10, and 13-18 are further amended to more clearly describe and distinctly claim Applicants' invention. No new matter is added.

Briefly recapitulating, amended Claim 10 is directed to a communication method used for carrying out call forwarding by a communication system. The method includes (a) receiving a call establishment request from a communication terminal; (b) sending, to said communication terminal, a call forwarding destination information including information on at least a call forwarding destination; (c) receiving information on a call forwarding destination which is selected by a caller from said communication terminal, and allowing said communication terminal and said call forwarding destination to communicate with each other according to said information on said call forwarding destination, and; (d) establishing a communication mode between said communication system and said communication terminal according to said information on said call forwarding destination. *The communications mode comprises one of an email mode, a fax mode, and a chat mode.* Amended Claim 1 is directed to an apparatus corresponding to the method of Claim 10. The claimed method and corresponding apparatus improves on the prior art because it allows callers to select a call forwarding destination and a call forwarding mode.³

Amended independent Claim 13 is directed to a communication method used for carrying out call forwarding by a communication system. The method includes (a) receiving a call establishment request from a communication terminal; (b) sending, to said communication terminal, a call forwarding destination information including information on

¹ Specification, Figure 3.

² Specification, page 13, lines 33-37.

³ Specification, page 1, lines 28-34.

at least a call forwarding destination; (c) receiving information on a call forwarding destination which is selected by a caller from said communication terminal; (d) performing media conversion between communication modes of said call forwarding destination and said communication terminal; and (e) allowing said communication terminal and said call forwarding destination to communicate with each other by performing media conversion.

The media conversion includes voice-to-text conversion and text-to-voice conversion.

Amended Claim 4 is directed to an apparatus corresponding to the method of Claim 13. The claimed method and corresponding apparatus improves on the prior art because it allows callers to select a call forwarding destination and a call forwarding mode.⁴

Chestnut teaches a method and device for callers to select a call forwarding destination phone number or mail box from a menu presented by a call forwarding manager.⁵ However, as noted by the Examiners during the interview of December 22, 2003, Chestnut does not teach or suggest a method or a device for callers to select a call forwarding destination and a communications mode comprising 'one of an email mode, a fax mode, and a chat mode' as recited in amended Claims 1 and 10. Also as noted by the Examiners during the interview, Chestnut does not teach or suggest call forwarding with 'voice-to-text conversion and text-to-voice conversion' as recited in amended Claims 4 and 13. Therefore, Applicants submit the inventions defined by Claims 1, 4, 10, and 13, and all claims depending therefrom, are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the asserted prior art for at least the reasons stated above.⁶

⁴ Specification, page 1, lines 28-34.

⁵ Chestnut, column 5, lines 26-62.

⁶ MPEP § 2142 "...the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure. In re Vaeck, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991)."

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment and in light of the previous discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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